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True and Exact RELATION
Of the taking of
COLCHESTER.

Sent in a
LETTER
From an Officer of the ARMY,
(who was present during the siege in
that service,) to a Member of
the House of Commons.

VVith a List of the Ordnance, Arms,
and of 3076. private souldiers there taken :
Also a List of the names of most of the
Officers of note, and an account of the
Cause of giving no Quarter to
Sir Charles Lucas, and Sir George Lyle.



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SIR,



After a long and tedious Siege, (in as wet a season as hath been known) an enemy of a desperate and high resolution, have at last brought themselves to a low and miserable condition, and some of them being made examples of Justice, the best of the Conditions of the rest, is Imprisonment; it was their wilfull obstinacie, and hautinesse of spirit, that lost them the opportunity when they might have had honourable Terms.

Three times were the Enemy in *Colchester* invited to a Treaty by the Lord General, twice had conditions sent in, but scorn and reproach was the return, and the Trumpeter the last time (as appears by writing under the hands of the Lord *Goring*, *Capell*, and *Lucas*) threatened to be hanged if he came any more upon such a message: Though this might have provoked, and taken off all inclinations of mercy towards them, yet endeavors were not wanting on our parts to undeceive many of the poor, deceived, and deluded souldiers, from whom their Officers concealed all overtures of a Parley, or Conditions. Arrows were shot severall times into the Town, to let the souldiers know the Conditions offered, and that yet they might have Passes to go to their severall homes, and above 300 souldiers came from the Enemy upon that account, and received their Passes accordingly.

When Captain *Storm* without, and Captain *Hunger* within, were both prepared to joyn Forces together to break through their stone walls, then the Enemy was not so high before, but they were as low now, and sent (as soon as our Canon had made a breach in the wall) for a Parley, and prevailed with the Committee, their prisoners, to intercede for it, and likewise the Townsmen to mediate on the behalf of the

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Town, but they had slip't their time: Our souldiers were exasperated with the losse of the blood of their fellow souldiers, (many being slain with chewed and poisoned bullets;) yet his Excellencie, that all might not suffer alike, sent in these Conditions following, viz. That all private souldiers, and Officers, under Captains, shall have Passes to go to their severall homes, engaging themselves not to bear Arms hereafter against the Parliament; and all Captains, and superiour Officers, and Gentlemen, to submit to Mercy. And understanding these Overtures, (as the former had been) were concealed from the private souldiers, we conveyed conditions in writing to them, by annexing them to the Tail of a Paper Kite, which the wind blew into the Town, (a truer story then the Cities Colchester Bull,) which falling among the souldiers, a horseman endeavouring to get it from the foot to carry it to the Generals, occasioned a mutenie, the foot crying out, They would know what those written Papers meant that were annexed to it, which being read unto them, and perceiving good Conditions intended to them, made such an impression upon their spirits, that they told their Officers, Either instantly make Terms, or else they would desert them, or deliver them up to the mercy of our souldiers

Immediately after the Lord Goring, &c. sent out for a Parley upon Terms of mercy, and Quarter offered, for the surrender of the Town, and accordingly sent forth their Commissioners, whose chief time was spent in explaining the meaning *to submit to Mercy*, which being explained by our Commissioners, (and admitted of by theirs,) that it was meant thereby, That it was in the Generals power to save any of those who did so submit to Mercy, or to put them to the sword: The Articles being signed upon Munday August 28. 1648. The Town was Surrendered, and the three Generals, all Officers, and Gentlemen render themselves at Mercy, and the private souldiers and inferiour Officers upon quarter. The same day examples of Justice was done upon Sir Charles Lucas, and Sir George Lyle, the former was conceived (and too true) to be the cause of the ruine of this place, his interest in the Town drawing the Army thither. He was the head of all those that did rise in this County, and so brought the odium of the countrey upon him, and at last grew harsh to the Towns people, (a thing contrary to his wonted disposition) when they complained for want of bread, not regarding what miserie he brought upon that place where he was born; besides, It was affirmed unto him by four persons at his death, That he put two men to the

the sword with his own hands in cold blood, long after quarter granted. The other, (as was informed) was a great cause of burning of the houses about the Town, and a person bent to much mischief.

This is the first example of Justice that ever was shewed in this kinde (since the first and second war) by the Parliaments party, though it be according to the rules of war (in submitting to Mercy;) the example hereof was given by the Kings party in the West, when 14 country men, that among others submitted to Mercy, were all hanged up together.

For those Officers and souldiers who were employed by the Parliament, and deserted their truth, they are to be tryed by a Councell of War, and some of them to be made examples for their Treachery.

Colonel *Farre* was the third man assigned to suffer with these two, but being concealed he could not then be found, though since he is taken, whom the Country cries out much upon, because he drew many an innocent man of the Trained band under the pretence to muster, not knowing they should ingage in matter of blood, he never discovering unto them what his intentions were of ingaging them in a Warre against the Parliament.

The fourth man that was brought to the place of Execution with the other two that suffered, was Sir *Bernard Gascoyne* an *Italian*, who after he had declared himself a *Papist*, and preparing for death, was reprieved. The cause of his being one designed for example, was, his extraordinary forwardnesse in appearing in person in *Kent* with the Lord *Goring*, in putting that County into a posture of Armes, in persisting in that way here in *Essex*, and being a man of great action during the siege; and besides, that it might be an example for strangers and forraigners how they presume in an other Nation, to take that boldnesse and confidence, as to cast themselves out of their protection by ingaging in unwarrantable actions: The carriage of this person, as a souldier was faire towards our party, and so mercy obtained for him.

For the L. *Goring* whom the people cry so out upon for justice against him and the like against the L. *Capell*, and the L. *Loughborow*, the Gen. and Councell of War in a speciall manner, left them to the mercy of the Par. that the expectation of the people may be satisfied, in the Parl. doing justice upon some, (a thing they have long look'd for) all the rest who have likewise submitted to mercy, are likewise left to the mercy of the Parliament, if they think fit to proceed against them in a way of justice. These men had not come to this sharpe accompt, but that God had hard-

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dened their hearts, which were full of bitterness of spirit, against this handfull of men, that did besiege them, hoping (according to Sir Anthony, St. Legers Letter to one of the Captaines in Colchester) to extirpate and, destroy all those that were honest Christians, under the notion of Independents, &c.

The Town hath suffered aswell as the men, being ruined in its buildings, Provisions, People, & Trade; what faire streets are here of stately houses now laid in ashes? How eminent are their graneries of Corne, (which before the enemies came, exceeded all parts of England) And their Cellers and storehouses of Wine and fruit, where there was plenty before, are empty now; they who had houses to live in, now live desolate for want of habitation, and those who had formerly their tables furnished with variety of dishes (besides their usuall dainties of Oysters and RingoRoots) have for a long time fed upon Horses, Dogs, and Cats, Starch, Bran, and Graines, and that with much greediness, and many starved to death by hunger.

The cheife Minister of this place, Mr. Harmar, that not long before stirred up the people against the Army, branding them with the names of Heretiques, and Schismaticks, and the people of the Towne who affronted and abused our souldiers when they quartered there, now both Ministers and people have longed for their deliverance by the hands of those whom they so much dispised before.

What place in the Kingdome like this drove such a Trade with London in all the former Warres, but since they Traded with Cavaliers, and admitted them so freely into their Towne, what place hath been more debarred thereof? Let this be a warning to London how they imbrace those whom God fights against, and how they hereafter cast off those whom God owne.

If it be asked why the L. Goring &c. held out so long? it is answered, (as some of their party have confessed) that they did it to the end, th^t Parliament might be cudgelled with a Reformado party, and that the Generall and those Forces with him might be here so engaged, as not to be able to resist the Kings friends from rising in a body, in any part of the Kingdome.

And if it be wondered why we lay so long before that place, I can only offer this as my owne observation, that we were too few to storm the place, they being between five and six thousand when we sate downe before it and we but 1500. foot of the Army, besides part of

There were taken in Town 26. pieces of Ordnance, and about five thousand Arms, (many of them broken) three thousand sixty and seven private souldiers, and of Officers above three hundred. I am not prepared to give you a particular of the severall persons, only of some of the remarkable of them, viz.

The Earl of Norwich.
 Lord Capell.
 Sir Charles Lucas.
 The Lord Lomborough.
 Col. Sir William Compton.
 Sir George Lyle.
 Col. Sir Bernard Gascoign.
 Sir Abraham Skipman.
 Colonell William Maxey.
 Colonel Sir Hugh Orelle.
 Colonel Farre.
 Colonel Ayloff.
 Colonel Bard.
 Colonel Hamond.
 Colonel Till.
 Colonel Heath.
 Colonel Tenk.
 Colonel Chester.
 Colonel Gibburt.

Colonel Culpepper.
 Sir Henry Appleton.
 Sir Richard Mauleverer.
 Sir Lodowick Dyer.
 Colonel Sayer.
 Colonel Slingsbie.
 Colonel Sir Charles Hastings.
 Colonel Lancaster.
 And divers other Knights and
 Colonels, Lieutenant Colo-
 nels, and Majors.
 Gentlemen of quality, and Re-
 formado Officers, 183.
 Colonel Cook.
 Col. Sir William Campion.
 Lieutenant Col. Hatcher.
 Major Starr, and others of quali-
 ty slain in the fight the first day,
 and during the Siege.

T.S.

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